

Closing Remarks

Department of Energy's Plan for Climate Change Technology Programs

Wednesday September 20, 2006

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this hearing today. We greatly appreciate your input and your efforts. Professor Hoffert, thank you again for accommodating us on such short notice.

Let me express my appreciation to the Department for releasing the revised CCTP Strategic Plan. Let me also put everyone on notice that this issue is not closed. I take my oversight responsibilities for this program very seriously, and I want to see continued progress.

First, we need to be better able to compare the relative value of R&D investments across the full CCTP portfolio. DOE needs both tools and a process to carry out periodic evaluations of its technology portfolio, and in particular of its top priorities. The Department should be able to tie achievement of technical and deployment goals to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and be ready to incorporate any future regulations into its evaluation and prioritization process.

Next, DOE needs a better process for developing its plans and priorities. I know significant effort is expended upon developing technical roadmaps for *individual* technologies. I expect DOE to solicit input and advice from the technical community, industry associations, and environmental groups on the *full suite* of climate change technology activities. If this includes all energy technology R&D programs at the Department, then so be it.

Finally, we need to be better able to assess the relative impact on climate change of the different technologies in the CCTP portfolio. In particular, we need to know and understand how the various CCTP technologies are going to impact greenhouse gas intensity – the economically important metric – and total emissions and greenhouse gas concentrations – the environmentally important metrics.

I look forward to learning of the Department's progress in these areas in the near future.

With that, the hearing is now adjourned.